

REMARKS

The above-captioned application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/181,638, filed February 10, 2000.

Applicant requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment before substantive examination of the above-captioned application. Claims 12-15 will be pending after entry of this Amendment. Claims 1-11 have been canceled. Claims 12, 13 and 15 have been amended.

This Amendment has been prepared according to the USPTO's revised amendment format.

Amendment to the Claims:

Claims 12 and 15 have been amended to delete the word "functional". Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 12. Support for the amendments can be found on page 5, lines 3-9; from page 22, line 15 to page 23, line 10; and elsewhere in the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

If the undersigned can be of assistance to the Examiner in addressing issues to advance the application to allowance, please contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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